



# Delving deep into a LEGEND'S MIND

Sajjad Hussain's 'Soumitrakkhor' explores Soumitra Chatterjee

Soumitra Chatterjee during the shooting of 'Barun Babur Bandhu', where Sajjad last met the artiste.

PHOTO: SAJJAD HUSSAIN

'Art for the sake of art', is a notion that writer, television producer, and lyricist Sajjad Hussain dislikes, taking a strong stance against it in an interview over the phone. The eccentric artiste, who wrote an entire album for the indomitable LRB, is now bent on taking a deep dive into the minds of legendary minds to understand the metaphorical poetry that goes within them.

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

"Only by observing a great mind, can we decipher what separates them from the mediocre and pretentious," says the writer. Sajjad, who has written highly acclaimed books including "Anjanjatra", "Babita" and "Mohiner Ghoraguli Gaan", recently released "Soumitrakkhor", featuring excerpts from a three-hour interview with Soumitra Chatterjee. The book has been published by Chhapakhanar Bhoot. The multiple-time National Award winning actor, director, playwright and poet, responsible for revolutionising Bangla cinema, had welcomed Sajjad into his home for the interview. "To help you really understand the humility of Soumitra Chatterjee, I'll start with an anecdote from my stay. I came across a 60 year old gentleman from a rural area, where the actor had shot for 'Ghore Baire'. He had asked for a write-up for his local newspaper, to which the great actor had happily agreed to. Apparently, he had also written for them before, and that only



Sajjad Hussain



The cover for 'Soumitrakkhor'

goes on to show his humility." The writer, in the book, has written about aspects of Soumitra from an artistic viewpoint, which surfaced during their warm conversation. "At that point in his life, I felt like the great man could see everything from a third-person view, he had a deep-rooted understanding of life where he could probably see himself from an elevated perspective." As the conversation went on, Soumitra

had told Sajjad that even though he does not know if an afterlife or reincarnation exists, but if it did, he would like to walk there holding hands with his now comatose grandson, Ranadeep Basu. "For a grandfather to address such a huge trauma, a frankly unfair sleight of fate, takes a man of that stature," said Sajjad. "There is a reason why Soumitra Chatterjee was mourned the way he was when he passed away. He was simply incomparable, his 'actor' self could never completely overhaul his 'artiste' self, not to mention his inherent 'poet'." As the author was leaving Soumitra's residence, he suddenly asked about eminent Bangladeshi poet, Al Mahmud. "He held my hand and asked my how Al Mahmud was, and I told him that he was not doing too well, he does not even recognise people nowadays." The actor told Sajjad that even if Al Mahmud does not remember him, he would like to kindly send him his regards and say that he is a huge fan.

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"He could have asked about anyone, but he remembered a poet, why do you think that is?" For a man whose entire life was a poetry in motion, the answer was not that hard to find.

## Nusrat Jahan's 'special' confession about her love story

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Popular Tollywood actress Nusrat Jahan is all set to host a talk show which deals with the concept of boldness in love. The "SOS Kolkata" actress has been in the news for her personal life and being reportedly married to her co-star Yash Dasgupta. The show named "Isq with Nusrat" features numerous celebrity guests including Yash Dasgupta, Ritabhari Chakraborty, Tanusree Chakraborty, among others opening up about love, physical attraction, affairs and many more topics. In the show Nusrat Jahan boldly asked Yash why he doesn't say anything nice about their relationship to the media. The "Fidaa" actor replied that as nobody says anything good about their relationship, he also doesn't feel the need to do so. Meanwhile, on the work front, Nusrat will soon start shooting for Shieladitya Moulik's political drama, which stars Yash Dasgupta opposite her. She's also playing one of the leads in Sudeshna Roy and Abhijit Guha's film "Jai Kali Kolkattawali".



PHOTO: COLLECTED



PHOTO: COLLECTED

## I went fishing with my son in Canada: Babita

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Farida Akhter Babita is one of the most prominent actors of the Bangladeshi film industry. The noted artiste gained international stardom with Satyajit Ray's "Ashani Sanket". Babita, who is currently out of Dhaka, opened up to The Daily Star about her pairing with Farooque and her wonderful time with her son in Canada, among other things. The National Film Award-winning actress has delivered numerous hits, such as "Noyonmoni", "Layli Mojnu", and "Alor Michil", among others. "People have a strong affection towards movies of the golden era. Those classics have a special place in their hearts," mention the actress. Her iconic songs 'Lalyli Tomar Eshechi Firiya' from "Layli Mojnu" and "Ey Prothibir Pore" from the movie "Alor Michil" are still popular among audiences. "The lyrics and melodies of yesteryear songs have a certain charm and warmth. It feels great to know that people still love those songs," she says. The popular actress acted with Farooque in the super hit movie "Noyonmoni". The song "Chul doyro nah khopa" from the movie is still a fan-favourite. "I have delivered one of my greatest performances in "Noyonmoni" and I really hope that Farooque gets well soon and comes back to us

quickly," adds the actress. The veteran artiste has been abroad for some time, visiting her brothers Iqbal Islam Shopon and Ferdous Islam Liton in USA and her son Anik in Canada. "During the pandemic, I was really worried about my son and I really wanted to be with him badly. When the situation improved, I came back to him and I am really enjoying my time with him," mentions the actress. "Together we roam around beautiful places in Canada. I went fishing with him. There is a beautiful river near his house where we caught a big fish. The time that I spend with him is truly priceless," adds the actress. Currently, she is staying at her brother's house in the USA. "I am enjoying a great deal with my brother here. There is a Bangladeshi farm where you can find *deshi* chicken, duck, and mutton among other things. I have brought a lot of groceries from there and cooked for the family," states the actress. Babita plans on staying in the USA for ten to twelve days, before heading to Canada. She was saddened to hear about the sudden demise of her *Moyna pakhi*, her pet bird, at her residence in Dhaka. "I broke down after hearing about her death. She has been living with me for eight years and I was really close with her. She could say Anik and even used to call me *Popi Apa* in the morning," adds the actress.

## 'I am looking forward to working with Shyam Benegal'

SHABABA IQBAL

Popular actress Sabila Nur has been busy with quite a few tele-fictions, especially for the forthcoming Valentine's Day. She was recently featured in Chorki's first ever free mini-series, "Sugar Free". Written by Adnan Mukit and directed by Rb Pritam, it is primarily about two pick pockets who have big dreams. Sabila plays the role of a bride in the series. "The overall experience of making 'Sugar Free' was interesting. We shot for it at Puran Dhaka. It is a very breezy and light-hearted comedy drama, so the ambience on the sets was quite easy-going as well," shares the actress. Sabila will play the role of a young Sheikh Rehana in renowned Indian filmmaker Shyam Benegal's biopic on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. It is a joint production of Bangladesh and India. "I am looking forward to working with Shyam Benegal. It is an amazing opportunity, to say the least," she says. "It is a completely new experience for me, since it is my first film."

Upon asking whether audiences will see her in more films after the Bangabandhu biopic, Sabila gives a rather honest answer. "I have no plans of signing more films as of yet, but I will be doing more work on OTT platforms. That being said, if I come across a good film script and a story that I believe in, I will definitely do it," she asserts. Moreover, Sabila was praised for her performance in the telefilm, "Bela Boye Jay", co-starring Tahsan Khan. "I have done a lot of comedy, but the story of 'Bela Boye Jay' was a little out of the box. I really loved it. We shot for the telefilm at beautiful locations of Sylhet," she shares. "Bela Boye Jay" revolves around a couple and the complexities in their relationship. "A lot of people have shared with me that besides the acting, the locations in 'Bela Boye Jay' were pleasing to the eyes. So, I plan to do more projects that will be filmed outside Dhaka, since audiences seem to like the change in scenery," adds Sabila. The actress feels that when it comes to her co-artists, she has acted alongside everyone that she wanted to. But there is one director she is yet to work with.

"I would love to work with Mostofa Sarwar Farooki *bhai*. I have not worked with him yet, even though I have collaborated with directors who were assistants to him. I really hope that happens at some point," concludes Sabila.



PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL